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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/SRAP - KAREN HANRAHAN  
SCA/A - ARIELLA VIEHE  
EUR/RPM - AARON COPE

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TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#)

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: FRENCH CIVIL AID FOCUSED ON  
AGRICULTURE, WHILE ADJUSTING MILITARY PRESENCE

REF: A. STATE 74362

[1](#)B. PARIS POINTS FOR JULY 2

[1](#)1. (SBU) Deputy Chief of Staff in the interagency  
Afghanistan/Pakistan cell Yann Braem said July 22 that France  
had recently allocated 23 million Euros in non-military aid  
to Afghanistan this year for total civilian assistance of  
approximately 40 to 45 million Euros for 2009. Around half  
of the 23 million Euros will fund agriculture and rural  
development projects, especially in the Kapisa region where  
the majority of French troops are serving. France is  
planning to invest in short-, medium-, and long-term  
projects, with a current focus on more long-term agricultural  
schemes now that initial short-term infrastructure and  
agricultural supply projects are winding up. Beyond Kapisa,  
discussions with Afghan authorities on funding nationwide  
education and health programs are ongoing. Looking to 2010,  
France aims to consolidate civilian aid programs to ensure  
they remain consistent with Afghan priorities and to maintain  
close coordination with the U.S. PRT active in France's area  
of operations.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The expected deployment of French gendarmes under  
NTM-A, with a mission to train Afghan police, is expected to  
take place this fall once a framework agreement is concluded  
under NTM-A, and this will reflect another approximately 30  
million Euros in increased French assistance. Laurent  
Legodec, another member of the Af/Pak cell, added that  
following the presidential elections in the fall, France  
wants to continue efforts to bolster the national government  
and to start discussions on how best to support the upcoming  
regional elections.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Legodec confirmed the plan to shift French forces  
currently in Kabul to Kapisa when Turkey takes over security  
responsibility for the capital region, in accordance with  
recent reports (ref B). The GOF plans to augment the two  
current battalions in Afghanistan with an additional company  
of approximately 150 personnel and the creation of a new base  
in Naghlu, which is now under construction. French troops  
would be deployed in Surobi (70 kilometers from Kabul) and  
Kapisa in the east and would be placed under the command of a  
French general in a Task Force. France also intends to  
reinforce its capabilities by sending 8 Caesar cannons and 3  
of its "ultramodern" Tiger helicopters.  
PEKALA